29th March 1928]

Levy of licence fees for postal motor vans by the President, Chingleput District Board.

*1814 Q.—Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the President of the District Board, Chingleput, levied licence fees under section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act for the postal motor vans engaged by the India Company, Limited, for carrying postal goods for hire from Madras to St. Thomas' Mount and Pallavaram; and if not, why not; and

(*b*) for how many years these motor vehicles escaped from paying licence fees to the District Board?

A.—(*a*) The President, District Board, Chingleput, reports that no licence fees were levied on the motor vans carrying postal goods as he did not consider them to be vehicles carrying goods for hire.

(*b*) Unless fees are due there is no question of escape.

Levy of special licence fees for buses on race days.

*1815 Q.—Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the President of the District Board, Chingleput, levied special licence fees for buses plying on race days between Madras and Guindy till 1926–27; and

(*b*) whether he levied similar licence fees for such buses during the current year, and if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. All motor buses which plied to Guindy races this year had already obtained permanent licences from the District Board, between Madras and St. Thomas Mount and places beyond.

Collection of tolls by the President, Chingleput District Board.

*1816 Q.—Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an injunction was granted in December 1927 by the District Munsif of Poonamallee restraining the toll-farmer of the Chingleput District Board from levying toll-fees for buses licensed by the District Board;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that subsequent to the order of injunction the bus-owners refused to pay the toll;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that this injunction was set aside on appeal to the District Court of Chingleput and that the case has been taken to the High Court of Madras;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the President of the District Board addressed the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police for help to the toll-contractor in collecting toll-fees from bus-owners;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the District Superintendent of Police declined to interfere in the matter, and consequently the President insisted upon all bus-owners who applied for renewal of licence that they should pay to the toll-contractor all arrears of toll and undertake to pay, in future, toll-fees without demur;